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International Classification: -C 07 f 9/38

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Stannous Phosphonates and their use in Oral Compositions for Caries Prophylaxis

We, THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY, a corporation organised under the laws of the State of Ohio, United States of America, of 301 East Sixth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to novel stannous salts of gem-diphosphonic acids and to stable oral compositions for caries prophylaxis which contain such salts in conjunction with a water-soluble source of floreside invention with a water-

15 soluble source of fluoride ions.

By the term "oral composition" as used herein is meant a product which in the ordinary course of usage is not intentionally ingested, but is retained in the oral cavity for 20 a time sufficient to contact substantially all of the dental surfaces. Such products include, for example, dentifrices, mouthwashes, chewing gums, and dental prophylaxis pastes and topical solutions for application by a dentist

topical solutions for application by a dentist. It is known that certain metallic ions have a significant effect on the anticariogenic efficacy of oral compositions. For example, a body of scientific literature shows that the use of a source of stannous ions in conjunction with fluoride gives a more effective anticariogenic product than is attained with fluoride alone [J. C. Muhler et al., J.A.D.A. 51, 665 (1955)].

One of the problems which has developed in the formulation of stable oral compositions containing tannous tin, especially aqueous compositions, is the propensity of this metal to oxidize to its higher valence state, hydrolyze to stannous hydroxide and/or react with other constituents of the composition to form very stable complexes or highly insoluble compounds. The occurrence of any of the foregoing can render tin non-reactive with

dental enamel. Stannous tin in this nonreactive state is referred to herein as "unavailable."

Various approaches have been used to maintain stamous tin in dental enamel reactive form. For example, U.K. patent specification No. 804,486 discloses the use of a sparingly soluble stannous salt such as stannous pyrophosphate as a "reservoir" of stannous ion in conjunction with the water-soluble stannous salt such as stannous fluoride. As stannous ion derived from the soluble salt reacts with dental enamel or becomes unavailable through e.g. hydrolysis, the sparingly soluble stannous salt slowly dissolves to replace the depleted stannous ion. However, the pyrophosphate anion hydrolyzes to orthophosphate on aging with the result that the "reservoir" capacity of stannous pyrophosphate gradually diminishes.

U.K. patent specification No. 1,009,480 discloses an advance over specification No. 804,486 involving the maintenance of dental enamel-reactive stannous tin by complexing Sn(II) ion with an aldonic acid to form a water-soluble stannous aldonate. A similar approach to the preservation of stannous tin in a stable and available form is the use of stannous complexes of hydroxyethylmitrilodiacetic acid, meta-hydroxy benzoic acid, 1,2,3propanetricarboxylic acid, itaconic acid, or malic acid for this purpose. These complexes are characterized by their solubility in aqueous solution and the strength of these complexes is such that stannous tin is protected from inactivating influences, yet is not so strong as to prevent reaction with dental enamel. Thus, this approach to maintenance of stannous tin represents a compromise between stability and reactivity, with the result that the stannous tin derived therefrom is not as available for reaction of dental enamel as would be the case with a less stable complex.

It has now been found that yet another and

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more effective approach to the maintenance of reactive stannous tin exists which involves the provision of certain sparingly soluble organic stannous salts which slowly dissolve to yield weak stannous complexes. These complexes are more reactive with dental enamel than the prior art soluble complexes yet the anions are more stable to hydrolysis than the pyrophosphate of specification No. 804,486 which 10 results in greater stability on aging. Thus, the advantages of both prior art approaches to maintenance of stannous tin can be realized in the approach herein provided.

According to the present invention, there are provided distannous salts of gem-diphosphonic

acids having the formula

wherein R₁ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, benzyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, methoxyalkyl or carboxyalkyl and has up to 12 carbon atoms and R2 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, acetyl, phenyl, benzyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, methoxyalkyl or carboxyalkyl and has up to 12 carbon

Also according to the present invention there is provided an oral composition for

caries prophylaxis comprising

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(a) at least one water soluble fluoride in a quantity sufficient to provide from 25 to 4000 and preferably from 100 to 4000 parts of fluoride ion per million parts by weight of the composition, and

(b) from 0.05% to 5.0% by weight of at least one distannous salt of a gemdiphosphonic acid as just defined.

In this specification all parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise specified. In addition to the advantages which the stannous salts of this invention provide from

the standpoint of maintaining stannous tin in a stable and reactive form, they also serve to retard the development of dental calculus by interfering with calcium hydroxyapatite crystal growth. Oral compositions containing such salts therefore provide both improved

anticaries and anticalculus effects...

The gem-diphosphonic acids from which the stannous salts of this invention are derived can be prepared for example by alkylation at the central carbon atoms of tetra-alkyl methane diphosphonates with an alkyl halide in accordance with the method described by G. M. Kosolopoff in J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 75, 1500 (1953). Preferred methods of preparing alternative gem-diphosphonic acids are disclosed in U.K. patent specification No. 1,026,366 and in copending application No. 34,223/66 (Serial No. 1,138,238).

The distannous of the gem-

diphosphonic acid may be prepared by mixing an aqueous solution of a gem-diphosphonic acid with at least a stoichiometric amount of an aqueous solution of a stannous salt, preferably stannous chloride, precautions being taken to exclude atmospheric oxygen, recovering and washing and drying the precipitate

Several representative stannous salts of gemdiphosphonic acids prepared in accordance with this invention are set forth in the follow-

ing Examples.

EXAMPLE I

The distannous salt of methanediphosphonic acid was prepared in the following manner: 35.2 g. of 99.8% pure methanediphosphonic acid were dissolved in 1,000 ml. of oxygenfree distilled water under a nitrogen blanket. 81.0 g. of 93.6% pure SnCl₂ (anhydrous) were then dissolved in 750 ml. of oxygen-free distilled water under a nitrogen blanket. The SnCl₂ solution was then added to the methanedisphosphonic acid solution with vigorous agitation. After three minutes of agitation the precipitate was recovered by filtration through a Buchner funnel under a nitrogen blanket. The precipitate was washed three times with anhydrous acetone, after which the acetone was removed by evaporation. The yield was 76 g. which analyzed as follows:

	Found	Theoretical	
Carbon	3.2	2.93	90
Hydrogen	. 1.0	0.49	
Phosphorus	14.3	15.15	
Stannous tin	53.6	58.0	

EXAMPLE II

The distannous salt of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid was prepared as follows: 51.6 g. of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid (prepared in accordance with the process disclosed in U.K. patent applica-tion No. 34,223/66 (Serial No. 1,138,238) were dissolved in 750 ml. of oxygen-free distilled water, under a nitrogen blanket. 99.4 g. of SnCl₂ (anhydrous, 99% pure) moistened with 20 ml, of 12N HCl were dissolved in 500 ml. of oxygen-free distilled water under a nitrogen blanket.

The SnCl₂ solution was added to the ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid solution rapidly and with vigorous agitation. After three minutes of agitation following the addition, the precipitated salt was filtered off using a suction filter, under a nitrogen blanket. The solid was washed three times, with dry acetone. Product yield was 57.9 g. which analyzed

	Found	Theoretical	
Carbon	5.3	5.46	
Hydrogen	1.2	0.91	
Phosphorus	12 .9	14.1	
Total Sn	51.4	54.0	120

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stirring propeller is about 1/2". above the teeth in the beaker, maintaining the propeller at this height throughout the test. A 40 ml. aliquot of lactate buffer is added to the mounted tooth set and the stirrer is started. After 15 minutes, the lactate buffer is removed, saved for analysis, and the tooth mounts are rinsed three times in distilled water and replaced in the water bath for the treatment step.

A 15 gram portion of the test dentifrice is mixed with about 45 ml. of water and this mixture is centrifuged for 15 minutes. A 40 ml. aliquot of the supernatant from the centrifuged dentifrice slurry is added to the tooth set and the stirrer is started. At the end of five minutes of treatment, the stirring is stopped and the treatment solution is discarded. The teeth are rinsed in distilled water and exposed to another 40 ml. of lactate buffer stirred at 1725 R.P.M. for 15 minutes.

This post-treatment lactate solution and the pre-treatment lactate solution are analyzed for phosphorus using the method of Martin and Doty. The percentage of enamel solubility reduction is computed as the difference between the amount of phosphorus in the pre-treatment and post-treatment lactate buffer solutions divided by the amount of phosphorus in the pre-treatment lactate buffer solution.

Formulations of various toothpaste
Examples of this invention are set forth in
Table I below and the aging and ESR data
obtained thereon are presented in Table 2.
The numbers set forth in Table 1 refer to
concentration in percent by weight. The
numeric values (other than ESR and pH
values) refer to p.p.m. of soluble stannous tin.
The designation "As is" in Table 2 refers
to the pH specified in parenthesis.

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Fluor	ride	Sweetener	Sud	Sudser Tickener		Sudser		Tickener		MISC.
SnF ₂	NaF		SAS ⁴	MgSO ⁵	CMC ⁸	V-Gum ⁷	HEC8	Colour and Flavour		
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39	· ·	1.47		
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39	9	1.47		
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39		1.47		
0.49		0.47	3.43				1.37	1.56		
0.49		0.47	3.43				1.37	1.56		
0.39		0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39	, and the second	0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.4		0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4		1.5		
	0.276	0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4	·	1.5		
0.5		0.48	3.50				1.40	1.14		
	0.276	0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4		1.5		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45		

When aged at 50°C the control composition set forth in Table 1 yields the following values:

Fresh	2 days	3 days 🗈	4 days	7 days		% ESR
483 (4.7)	232	·· 96	100	45	Fresh	66.8
867	297	132	81	35	30 days	35.0

It can be seen that the Sn(II) level of the control composition was reduced over 50% after only two days of aging. After seven days of aging at 50°C., the Sn(II) level of the control was reduced to less than one-tenth of its original level. A corresponding reduction in ESR value is seen in the aged control tooth-

The toothpastes of the foregoing Examples on the other hand provide a relatively constant level of Sn(II) after aging even under these severe storage conditions for even longer periods (28 days). The ESR values shown

above for several of the examples are seen to 15

be substantial even after this peroid of aging.
The toothpastes of Examples IV and V provide significant reductions in dental calculus formation as compared to the control composition when used in the conventional

Other oral compositions in accordance with this invention are formulated as follows: EXAMPLE XXI

A mouthwash composition is prepared by mixing the following components using conventional means.

Component	% By Weight
Ethyl alcohol (50% ethanol, 50% water)	83.00
Glycerine	12.00
Methyl triethanol ammonium fluoride	2.88
Distannous ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate	1.15
Flavouring	0.85
Saccharin	0.12
pH adjusted to 6.5	

Prior to use this composition is diluted by 30 adding 2 ml. of the concentrate to 20 ml. of water. This composition contains high levels of dental enamel reactive Sn(II) over substantial periods of time and yields a substantial reduction in enamel solubility, even after aging. Thus, this composition provides an effective means for caries prophylaxis when used in the usual manner two or more times a day.

The distannous ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate of this Example can be replaced by distannous propane-2,2-diphosphonate, distannous methanehydroxydiphosphonate, distannous dichloromethylenediphosphonate, distannous bromomethylenediphosphonate, or distannous methanephenylhydroxydiphosphonate in quantities sufficient to provide equivalent Sn(II) levels with good results.

EXAMPLE XXII

Another mouthwash embodiment of the invention is formulated as follows:

Component	% By Weight
Ethanol	35.00
Glycerine	10.00
Laurylamine hydrofluoride	0.72
Stannous chloride	0.016
Distannous methane diphosphonate	0.15
Flavouring	0.16
Saccharin	0.12
Water	Balance
pH adjusted to 6.0.	·

This mouthwash contains effective concentrations of enamel-reactive stannous tin over a period of several months. When used in the conventional manner in undiluted form this composition substantially reduces enamel solubility and caries incidence.

Distannous nonane-5,5-diphosphonate, distannous decane-1,1-diphosphonate, distannous dodecane-2,2-diphosphonate, distannous tetra-10 decane -3,3 - diphosphonate, or distannous butane-1,1-diphosphonate can be used in place of distannous methane diphosphonate with comparable results.

EXAMPLE XXIII

A chewing gum is prepared having the following composition.

Component		% By Weight
Gum base*		21.50
Sugar		59.50
Corn Syrup (Baume 45)		18.20
Flavouring		q.s.
Sodium fluoride		0.25
Distannous pentadecane-8,8-diphe pH adjusted to 4.5	osphonate	0.55
*Estergum	30 parts	•
Coumarone resin	45 parts	
Latex (dry)	15 parts	
Paraffin wax (M.P. 180°F.)	10 parts	

TABLE

		Liquids			Abrasives			Ì
Ex.	H ₂ O	Sorbo ¹	Głycerine	Ca ₂ P ₂ O ₇	MUF ²	UF	Sn ₂ EHDP	Sn ₂ MDI
IV	25.7	19.6	9.8		14.7	22.5	i	0.98
V	26.19	19.6	9.8		14.7	22.5		0.49
VI	26.44	19.6	9.8	·	14.7	22.5		0.245
VII	23.4	21.6	10.8		14.9	22.3		0.49
VIII	22.83	21.6	10.8		14.9	22.3		0.25
IX	25.5	19.38	9.69	37.8				0.48
X	26.37	19.38	9.69	37.8				0.24
XI	26.13	19.38	9.69	37.8			0.48	
XII .	25.04	20.0	10.0		15.0	23.0		0.1
XIII	25.01	20.0	10.0		15.0	23.0		0.25
XIV	21.88	22.0	11.0		15.2	22.8		0.1
xv	25.43	20.0	10.0	· .	15.0	23.0		0.1
XVI	26.30	19.4	9.7	37.83			0.24	
XVII	20.06	19.4	9.7	37.83			0.48	
xvIII	26.17	19.4	9.7	37.83				0.375
XIX	26.17	19.4	9.7	37.83	·		0.375	
xx	26.37	19.4	9.7	37.83				0.17
Control ⁹	25.60	19.4	9.7	37.8				

- 1. Sorbitol-30% aqueous solution
- 2. Precipitated melamine-urea-formaldehyde condensation product
- 3. Precipitated urea-formaldehyde condensation product
- 4. Sodium lauryl sulphonate
- 5. Sodium coconut monoglyceride sulphonate
- 6. Sodium carboxymethylcellulose
- 7. Magnesium aluminium silicate
- 8. Hydroxyethylcellulose
- Control is a commercially available stannous fluoride containing dentrifrice which contained 0.97% by weight of stannous pyrophosphate in addition to the recited components.

Fluor	ride	Sweetener	Sud	ser	Tickener			MISC.
SnF ₂	NaF		SAS ⁴	MgSO ⁵	CMC ⁶	V-Gum ⁷	HEC8	Colour and Flavour
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39	· ·	1.47
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39		1.47
0.39		0.27	2.38	0.79	1.03	0.39		1.47
0.49		0.47	3.43		 -		1.37	1.56
0.49		0.47	3.43				1.37	1.56
0.39		0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.39		0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.39		0.14	2.35	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.4		0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4		1.5
	0.276	0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1.5
0.5		0.48	3.50				1.40	1.14
	0.276	0.27	2.43	0.81	1.05	0.4		1.5
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39	····· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1.45
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39	\	1.45
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45
0.39		0.14	2.36	0.78	1.02	0.39		1.45

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		70.5	64.6	1	1	-	1	69.0 52.3	l	65.5 73.9	47.8 54.9	69.8	30.4	60.6	64.8
	% ESR	28 days	28 days	2002	1	ł	1	Fresh 30 days	1	Fresh 30 days	Fresh 30 days	Fresh 30 days	Fresh 30 days	Fresh 30 days	Fresh 30 days
4 - A 17 - B - B - B - B - B - B - B - B - B -	28 days	582 (4.4) 1770	671 (4.3) 1031	641 (4.2) 666	457 (3.8) 688	435 (3.8) 398	474 (5.1) 523	210 (5.2) 225	406 (4.7)	466 (4.3)	153 (4.8) 162		1	11.	466 (5.3) 505
1 at 50°C.	21 days	767 (4.2) 1744	752 (4.3) 1096	11		!		11	11		148 158	448 (4.1) 281	35 (4.8) 43	248 (5.6) 227	
TABLE 2 Time Interval at 50°C.	14 days	11	11	652 (4.5) 642	528 685	523 (3.7) 443	478 (5.0) 575	257 (5.1) 265	422 (4.8)	502 (4.3) 443	183 (4.8) 173	526 (4.3) 276	32 (4.8) 43	274 (5.3) 284	487 (5.1) 532
	7 days	820 (4.1) 1617	717 (4.3)	582 (4.6) 540	577 807	469 (3.7) 373	448 (4.9) 567	257 (5.1) 281	442 (4.6)	540 (4.4) 470	1	593 (4.2) 197	44 4.9)	295 (5.2) 291	519 (4.9) 540
	2 days	802 (4.1) 1720	737	723 (4.5) 532	1 1	11	11	280 (4.6) 365	11	628 (4.3) 395	212 (4.8) 205	711 (4.3) 185	59 (4.9) 47	363 (4.8) 375	11
AND THE REST PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP	resh	As is: 922 (4.4) pH 6.2 1655	As is: 910 (4.2) pH 6.2 957	As is: 826 (4.3) pH 6.2 537	As is: 956 (3.6) pH 6.2 853	As is: 911 (3.7) pH 6.2 393	As is: 793 (4.2) pH 6.2 926	As is: 529 (4.3) pH 6.2 564	As is: 631 (4.3) pH 6.2 730	As is: 688 (4.4) pH 6.2 313	As is: 212 (4.8) pH 6.2 225	As is: 702 (4.5) pH 6.2 188	As is: 83 (4.9) pH 6.2 92	As is: 513 (4.8) pH 6.2 490	As is: 755 (4.6) pH 6.2 807
	Example) }	Λ	VI	VII	VIII	ĸ	ĸ	ХI	пх	шх	XIV	ΧΛ	XVI	хуп

When aged at 50°C the control composition set forth in Table 1 yields the following values:

Fresh	2 days	3 days	4 days	7 days		% ESR
483 (4.7)	232	96	100	45	Fresh	66.8
867	297	132	81	35	30 days	35.0

It can be seen that the Sn(II) level of the control composition was reduced over 50% after only two days of aging. After seven days of aging at 50°C., the Sn(II) level of the control was reduced to less than one-tenth of its original level. A corresponding reduction in ESR value is seen in the aged control tooth-

The toothpastes of the foregoing Examples on the other hand provide a relatively constant level of Sn(II) after aging even under these severe storage conditions for even longer periods (28 days). The ESR values shown

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above for several of the examples are seen to 15

be substantial even after this peroid of aging.
The toothpastes of Examples IV and V provide significant reductions in dental calculus formation as compared to the control composition when used in the conventional manner.

Other oral compositions in accordance with this invention are formulated as follows: EXAMPLE XXI

A mouthwash composition is prepared by mixing the following components using conventional means.

Component	% By Weight
Ethyl alcohol (50% ethanol, 50% water)	83.00
Glycerine	12.00
Methyl triethanol ammonium fluoride	2.88
Distannous ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate	1.15
Flavouring	0.85
Saccharin	0.12
pH adjusted to 6.5	

Prior to use this composition is diluted by 30 adding 2 ml. of the concentrate to 20 ml. of water. This composition contains high levels of dental enamel reactive Sn(II) over substantial periods of time and yields a substantial reduction in enamel solubility, even after aging. Thus, this composition provides an effective means for caries prophylaxis when used in the usual manner two or more times a

The distannous ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate of this Example can be replaced by distannous propane-2,2-diphosphonate, distannous methanehydroxydiphosphonate, distannous dichloromethylenediphosphonate, distannous bromomethylenediphosphonate, or distannous methanephenylhydroxydiphosphonate in quantities sufficient to provide equivalent Sn(II) levels with good results.

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EXAMPLE XXII

Another mouthwash embodiment of the invention is formulated as follows:

Component	% By Weight
Ethanol	35.00
Glycerine	10.00
Laurylamine hydrofluoride	0.72
Stannous chloride	0.016
Distannous methane diphosphonate	0.15
Flavouring	0.16
Saccharin	0.12
Water	Balance
pH adjusted to 6.0.	

This mouthwash contains effective concentrations of enamel-reactive stannous tin over a period of several months. When used in the conventional manner in undiluted form this composition substantially reduces enamel solubility and enrice incidence. bility and caries incidence.

Distannous nonane-5,5-diphosphonate, distannous decane-1,1-diphosphonate, distannous dodecane-2,2-diphosphonate, distannous tetra-10 decane - 3,3 - diphosphonate, or distannous butane-1,1-diphosphonate can be used in place of distannous methane diphosphonate with comparable results.

EXAMPLE XXIII

A chewing gum is prepared having the following composition.

Component		% By Weight
Gum base*		21.50
Sugar		59.50
Corn Syrup (Baume 45)		18.20
Flavouring		q.s.
Sodium fluoride		0.25
Distannous pentadecane-8,8-diphosphonate pH adjusted to 4.5		0.55
*Estergum	30 parts	
Coumarone resin	45 parts	•
Latex (dry)	15 parts	
Paraffin wax (M.P. 180°F.)	10 parts	

This composition provides an effective means for caries prophylaxis when chewed in the conventional fashion. Sufficient stannous and fluoride ion is ionized in the course of chewing in saliva to reduce the solubility of dental enamel.

This composition retains high levels of active Sn(II) even after prolonged storage.

The distannous pentadecane-8,8-diphosphonate used in this composition can be replaced by distannous ethane-2-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate, distannous decane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate, distannous methanebenzyldiphosphonate, distannous ethane-1-methoxy-1,1-diphosphonate or distannous methoxymethylene-diphosphonate with no substantial loss of stability or efficacy.

The distannous gem-diphosphonates employed in each of the foregoing Examples of the application of the salts can also be replaced with distannous ethane-1-acetyl-1,1-diphosphonate or propane-1,3-diphenyl-2,2-diphosphonate with good results.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

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1. Distannous salts of gem-diphosphonic acids having the formula

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, benzyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, methoxyalkyl or carboxyalkyl and has up to 12 carbon atoms and R_2 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, acetyl, phenyl, benzyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, methoxyalkyl or carboxyalkyl and has up to 12 carbon atoms.

Distannous methane diphosphonate.
 Distannous ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphos-

phonate.

4. A distannous salt of a gem-diphosphonic

acid substantially as described in any one of Examples I to III herein.

5. A distamous salt of a gem-diphosphonic acid according to claim 1 and as specifically mentioned herein.

6. An oral composition for caries prophylaxis comprising

(a) at least one water-soluble fluoride in a quantity sufficient to provide from 25 to 4000 parts of fluoride ion per million parts by weight of the composition, and

(b) from 0.05% to 5.0% by weight of at least one distannous salt of a gem-diphosphonic acid of any preceding claim.

7. An oral composition according to claim 6 in which the total stannous tin content is from 15 to 10,000 parts per million parts by weight of the composition.

8. An oral composition according to claim 7 in which the total stannous tin content is from 50 to 8,000 parts per million parts by weight of the composition.

9. A composition according to any one of claims 6 to 8 in which the water soluble fluoride is stannous fluoride.

10. A composition according to claim 9 in which the stannous fluoride is used in an amount sufficient to provide a total amount of at least 300 parts of stannous tin per million parts by weight of the composition.

11. A composition according to any one of claims 6 to 8 in which the water-soluble fluoride is an amine hydrofluoride containing at least one substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon radical having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms

12. An oral composition for caries prophylaxis substantially as described in any one of Examples IV to XXIII herein.

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